

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:42 a.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Logan Walters, former Presi-

dential Aide, and his fiancée, Katherine Marinis, executive assistant, political affairs, Executive Office of the President. A reporter referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

## The President's Radio Address *April 27, 2002*

Good morning. This week, Americans had some good news about strong growth in our economy, yet we cannot be content or complacent. Job creation and business investment are still not what they should be. We want short-term recovery to become long-term expansion. And one of the best ways to encourage high-paying jobs and long-term growth is expanded trade.

I'm pleased that the United States Senate is set to begin an important debate on trade legislation that will help American workers and farmers and consumers. I have traveled around the country and seen the value of trade, and foreign leaders have told me how trade will strengthen security and economic growth in our hemisphere.

The benefits of greater trade are beyond dispute. During the 1990s, U.S. exporters generated about one-quarter of our economic growth through the sale of American goods abroad. Trade boosts our productivity and creates higher paying jobs. The latest global trade agreement and NAFTA have improved the average standard of living for an American family of four by up to \$2,000 a year.

Now is the time to build on this record of success. The Senate should pass the pending trade legislation without delay. Trade promotion authority would give me the flexibility to negotiate with other countries to open their markets and get the best deals for American producers and workers. Congress would still have the final up-or-down vote on any trade agreement. The previous five Presidents have had this

authority; it expired 8 years ago. And since then, America has sacrificed its traditional leadership role in trade.

For two decades, trade promotion authority was a bipartisan commitment. It was a commitment because it represented our national interest in expanding foreign markets. More than 150 trade agreements exist throughout the world. The European Union is party to 31 of them and Mexico to 10. The United States is party to just three. Passage of the TPA will give America's entrepreneurs and workers and farmers and ranchers a fair shot at the markets of the world.

The Andean Trade Preference Act is a good example of how trade can also help increase the security of America. Over the past 10 years, this law has given the four Andean nations more access to our markets, which they report has created 140,000 jobs. The law has also helped provide an economic alternative to the production of drugs. We need to renew and expand the Andean Trade Preference Act as soon as possible. If we fail to act before May 16th, 90 days worth of import duties will come due, raising prices for American consumers and hampering the region's economic development.

I recognize that some American workers may face adjustment challenges as a result of trade. I support helping these workers by reauthorizing and improving trade adjustment assistance programs that will give workers impacted by trade new skills, help

them find new jobs quickly, and provide them with financial assistance.

Nearly 5 months have passed since the House of Representatives approved trade promotion authority and the Andean trade legislation. Every day we go without expanding trade is another day of missed opportunities to strengthen our economy.

The Senate must act and affirm America's trade leadership in a bipartisan manner. We cannot let this initiative fall victim to partisan politics. Our trading partners are waiting for us. American workers are

depending on us. And America cannot afford further delay.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 6 p.m. on April 25 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 27. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 26 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Remarks on the Situation in the Middle East and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford April 28, 2002

*The President.* Good afternoon. I am pleased by today's developments in the Middle East and believe they'll prove to be important steps along the path to peace in the Middle East.

I commend the Israeli Cabinet for its decision this morning to allow Chairman Arafat to move freely, to accept international monitoring of six prisoners who are at Chairman Arafat's compound, and to withdraw its forces from Ramallah. The Palestinian Authority has agreed to accept this approach.

Many parties contributed to today's positive development. The United Kingdom played an especially important role in creating a framework for international monitoring of the six prisoners.

I've called on all parties to step up their responsibilities, and today's developments are a positive sign that they are doing so.

Much hard work remains, and this is a time for all of us to commit to fight terror and to promote peace in the Middle East. Chairman Arafat should now seize this opportunity to act decisively, in word and in deed, against terror directed at Israeli citizens. As we work to improve the security

situation in the region, all of us must step up our efforts to bring humanitarian relief and economic assistance to the Palestinian people.

This morning I called Crown Prince Abdullah to thank him for his visit to the United States. Our discussions forged a personal bond of friendship and strengthened the 60-year relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia. The Crown Prince has offered a number of constructive ideas for making political progress between Israel and the Palestinians. We will continue to build on these ideas as we move forward to fight terror and to promote peace in the Middle East.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press].

### *Saudi Peace Plan*

Q. Mr. President, on the Saudi peace plan, where are the points of objection that you've not been able to agree upon?

*The President.* Well, they came with some constructive ideas, and we listened very carefully to their ideas, and we will continue to work with them and others in the region to promote them. I believe that